

A PECULIAR NUMBER

SOME RATHER QUEER FACTS ABOUT THE MAGIC SEVEN.

Remarkable Demonstrations of the Universality of This Mystic Number and Mathematical Wonders—Nine, a Friend to the Devil.

Now the figure 7 has been twisted and intertwined in the fabrics of superstition, mysticism and religion has ever been a source of wonderment even to the deliverer into the ranks. From the "Come, my seven-slayer" of the darkly crap shooter to the "seven daughters of a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter" claims of the apocryphal and on to the New Testament analysis, showing the four gospels to have been written on an elaborated scale of 7's, the student even of these students finds himself nonplussed.

"Oh, he's crazy" is the final conclusion with which the layman who looks on dismisses the man and the subject. But that the figure 7 is a peculiar group of integers cannot be denied by any one who will look a few mathematical facts in the face.

One of the most remarkable demon-

strations of the potentiality of the figure is found in that old mooted ques-

tion of the "squaring of the circle."

For all practical purposes in the work-

shop the area of the circular plane is

found by multiplying the diameter of

the circle by the figure 31416. But

there are those who question the ac-

curacy of this fractional multiplier and

who assert that the relation of the

diameter to the circle is exactly the

compound number 3.17 and that the

area of the circle is found by multi-

plying the diameter by this group of

figures.

This makes the decimal group of six

places .142857 plus, and it is this deci-

mal group of six places which re-

sponds in such striking repetition to

any multiplier and particularly to the

figure 7 in its multiples. The fact is

demonstrated in a moment that to mul-

tiply this group by the figure 2 the pro-

duct is .285714, a product which re-

tains every numeral in the first group,

only that all are transposed in their

order. Multiply this same group by 3 and the product is .428571, a collec-

tion of the same numbers that are in

the first decimal group; but redistributed.

This phenomenon is maintained by multiplications of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 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